

Weapon System Impact Tool

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

In today's Standardization business process, a difficult manual search is required to determine the effect of standardization documents on major weapon systems (i.e., to determine which standardization documents apply to which weapon systems and their components). There is no easy-to-use, automated system to provide this correlation between standardization documents and weapon systems that key players in the Standardization community and program offices require. This minimizes the effectiveness of the Defense Standardization Program (DSP).

TASKING

The IPT was not tasked specifically to address the issue of determining the relationship between standardization documents and weapon systems; however, the resolution of this issue would contribute directly to the Standardization community's ability to develop and coordinate documents. The ability to determine the relationship could provide Preparing Activities with information on affected weapon systems to ensure proper and thorough document coordination. The solution also would make a significant contribution to the development and support of weapon systems.

CURRENT SITUATION

The maintenance and support of fielded weapon systems require regular and sustained interaction between original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), DoD program management offices, engineering support activities (ESAs), logistical inventory control points (ICPs), and standardization offices. A significant number of these interactions coalesce around various types of requirements documents (i.e., OEM and subcontractor unique specifications, drawings, part numbers, and DSP specifications). DSP specifications comprise a significant portion of all specifications used to describe weapon system repair parts.

Today, the Military Services and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) have various software tools that capture necessary information such as weapon system application, procurement data, inventory data, and cost data. However, these tools

rely on manual interrogation by individual part number or national stock number (NSN). Following are examples of these tools¹:

- Snapshot by DLA/Defense Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC),
- Customer Account Tracking System (CATS) by DLA/Defense Supply Center, Richmond (DSCR),
- Standard Automated Materiel Management System (SAMMS),
- Weapon System Support Program (WSSP),
- Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS),
- “My NSN” by U.S. Army CECOM, and
- API by the U.S. Air Force.

DEFINITION OF NEED OR OPPORTUNITY

The IPT sees an immediate need for an automated, Web-based system that links DoD standardization documents to affected military weapon systems. Users would include Standardization offices, program offices, ICPs, ESAs, and the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS).

In addition to serving as a critical aid within the document development and coordination process, such a tool would allow the Standardization community to demonstrate the effect of standardization on program offices. In addition, program managers and others within the DoD acquisition and sustainment communities could readily determine the effect of Standardization on their programs. Often, the benefits of standardization are transparent to those affected. This tool could demonstrate to the widest definition of the Standardization community the effect of standards on its business.

The weapon system impact tool, as a minimum, should have the following functionality:

¹ The IPT also made inquiries to the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS) regarding the feasibility of adapting FEDLOG for this purpose. The FEDLOG program manager has expressed interest in developing such a tool.

- Query by standardization document number [MilSpec, FedSpec, commercial item description (CID), non-government standard (NGS), and international standardization agreement (ISA)] for the following information:
 - summary number and list of affected weapon systems,
 - demand and procurement data, and
 - summary number and list of referenced NSNs and controlling part numbers.²
- Query by weapon system³ for
 - summary number and list of controlling standardization document numbers⁴, and
 - summary number of weapon system-related NSNs and part numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1

Develop a widely accessible, Web-based Weapon System Impact Tool. This tool will provide an ability to link standardization documents to weapon systems, standard parts, and procurement data. After this and subsequent recommendations are implemented fully, the role of standardization in supporting weapon systems will be better understood and appreciated by OEMs, Program Offices, ICPs, ESAs, and standardization offices. It also will facilitate documentation of Standardization's contribution to the development and support of weapon systems.

Recommendation #2

Deploy this capability through the Information Exchange System (IES) Portal. The IES Portal will be the central access point for all standardization data, tools, and knowledge.⁵

² As referenced by DoD 4100.39-M, Volume 10, Tables 6 and 7, controlling part numbers are referenced by RNCC/RNVC codes equal to 2/2.

³ In some cases, a "weapon system" may, in fact, be a weapon subsystem (e.g., engines and avionics systems).

⁴ As referenced by DoD 4100.39-M, Volume 10, Tables 6 and 7, controlling documents are referenced by RNCC/RNVC codes equal to 2/2 for the part number and 4/1 for the document number.

⁵ Refer to the Infrastructure IPT's recommendations for IES Portal requirements.